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## **Youth Protection and Curfew Ordinance Continues to Offer Dedicated Efforts to Protect Local Youth**

*Ordinance Intended to Support and Reinforce Parental Role*

Salisbury, NC\_June 14, 2011 – In support of summertime safety measures, Police Chief Rory Collins reminds parents that Salisbury's Youth Protection and Curfew Ordinance remains in effect to protect children under the age of sixteen from victimization and exposure to criminal activity. The ordinance, adopted June 16, 2009, became effective July 1 of that same year. Under the ordinance, it is unlawful for juveniles under the age of sixteen to be in public places, without a parent or appointed guardian, between the hours of 11 pm to 6 am, Sunday through Thursday, and from midnight to 6 am on Friday and Saturday nights.

Chief Collins said, "The ordinance, which passed approximately two years ago, amended Chapter 20: POLICE, of the Salisbury City Code, by adding a new section to the chapter entitled Article 4. The Youth Protection and Curfew Ordinance establishes a curfew for youth, fifteen years and younger, and is intended to reinforce the role of the parent in raising and guiding their children. As always, we encourage all parents to be responsible for the whereabouts of their children."

Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz notes that prior to adoption of the ordinance, she and her fellow council members received positive feedback from the community for implementation of a youth curfew. On behalf the Salisbury City Council, Kluttz said, "Our goal in adopting the curfew was to support the family unit and to build a safer community for all through constructive youth intervention." The Mayor explains that over 500 citizens attended the Salisbury-Rowan United Positive Youth Summit during June 2007 and shared ideas and suggestions for providing a positive future for local youth. "Feedback from summit attendees and our citizens consistently supported the implementation of a youth curfew with authorization for our police department to enforce. The Youth Protection and Curfew Ordinance allows our officers to intervene and take the necessary steps to protect our local youth and to derail serious problems that can occur in the late hours. This ordinance is supportive in protecting the community, our citizens, and for creating a positive future for our youth. As council members, we are dedicated to taking any and all steps necessary to protect the children of Salisbury."

Chief Collins offers that the "curfew ordinance provides numerous exceptions for youth who are traveling to and from school and to religious and civic-sponsored events. In addition, youth traveling to places of employment or responding to emergencies are excluded from the ordinance. Our intent is not to inhibit positive youth activity, but to ensure that youth remain properly supervised." Chief Collins reiterates that the

ordinance “places the responsibility of juvenile action with the parent or guardian. Parents are expected to have concern and knowledge for their children’s whereabouts and the safety of their children should be as important to the parents as it is to us.”

For a copy of the adopted Youth Protection and Curfew Ordinance, citizens may visit the Salisbury Police Department at 130 E. Liberty Street and request a printed copy at the front counter. In addition, an online, printable version of the ordinance is available by visiting the City of Salisbury website at [www.salisburync.gov](http://www.salisburync.gov) and clicking on the link entitled Youth Protection and Curfew Ordinance, under the heading of Highlights. For more information regarding the Salisbury Police Department, please call 704-638-5333 or visit the department online at [www.salisburyncpd.org](http://www.salisburyncpd.org).

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